

The OCH/CAST/CASA volunteer process requires special effort, but offers a unique opportunity for those who want to contribute their time and talents.

You must be at least 18 years of age to apply (21 years of age to apply for CAST and CASA). Background clearances are required. Potential volunteers will be asked to submit the following:

- Fingerprint Card/Live Scan
- TB test results
- Confidentiality Form
- Three references
- Completion of Agency application

Depending on the volunteer program, volunteer data may be submitted for a clearance and/or background check with:

- The Child Abuse Registry
- The DMV
- The Department of Justice

Requirements for some programs include:

- Must pass a background investigation and psychological evaluation.
- Must not have any felony convictions within the past 10 years.
- Must not be on formal or informal probation.
- CASA volunteers commit to donating at least three hours each week for a minimum of two years.
- CAST volunteers are required to attend 15 hours of state-mandated training and must pass the background check referred to above.

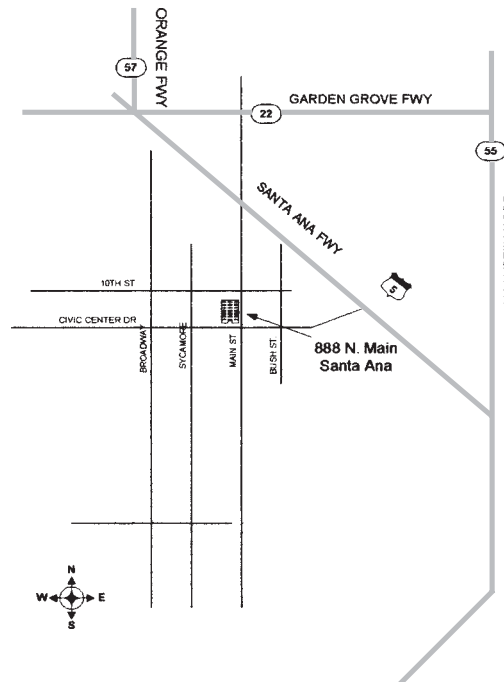
Once clearances have been approved, volunteers will be contacted and invited to attend the required training classes. Background clearances may take up to 8 weeks to process.

## WHEN & WHERE

Meetings are held on the last Tuesday of the month (excluding December) from 6—8 p.m. at 888 N. Main St. Room B-174, Santa Ana, CA 92701. For directions, see map below. Refreshments will be served.

*NOTE: These Volunteer programs encourage participation by women and men of every ethnicity. Seniors are invited to share their grandparenting skills.*

SSA VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION  
MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE LAST  
TUESDAY  
OF EACH MONTH  
(EXCEPT DECEMBER)



**Social Services Agency**

# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

County of Orange

**Social Services Agency Administration**  
888 N. Main Street  
Santa Ana, CA 92701  
(714) 935-7571  
FAX: (714) 935-6911  
[www.oc.ca.gov/ssa](http://www.oc.ca.gov/ssa)

Join the County of Orange Social Services Agency Volunteer Program. Make a difference in a child's life.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Monthly orientations include presentations from:

- OCH - Orangewood Children's Home
- CAST - Child Abuse Services Team
- CASA - Court Appointed Special Advocates
- Foster & Adoptive Parenting
- Operation Santa Claus
- Senior Santas & Friends
- LA CASA - OCH Auxiliary

### ORANGEWOOD CHILDREN'S HOME (OCH)

Orangewood is a temporary home to children between the ages of 2 days to 18 years. Volunteers decide which age group best compliments their interest and talents.

As an OCH volunteer you will be helping to individualize the services provided by our professional staff and enrich our programs with your specific interest and talents. Volunteers have the opportunity to:

- \* Assist with individual and group activities
- \* Assist in school classrooms
- \* Interact with children in the cottages
- \* Assist in recreation and craft activities
- \* Assist with Independent Living Programs

### OPERATION SANTA CLAUS SENIOR SANTAS AND FRIENDS

This project provides holiday gifts and toys for children and seniors who are either abused, neglected, physically or mentally challenged or homeless. The entire program is coordinated and supported by community organizations and concerned citizens.

Volunteers help in the months of November and December:

- \* Organize gifts
- \* Assist shoppers
- \* Assist with pickup and delivery of special items for seniors, teens, and children

### COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES (CASA)

CASA is a child's voice in court. It is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting the rights of children who have been removed from their homes because of severe or chronic child abuse. You may be interested in becoming a CASA volunteer if you are a mature, responsible adult who can relate to children in stressful situations. You must be willing to commit your time to ensure that an abused or neglected child ends up in a safe, permanent, nurturing home by speaking up for the child in court.

- \*\* CASA volunteers maintain a weekly one-to-one relationship with a child throughout the time that the child is a dependent of the court.
- \*\* CASA provides information and objective recommendations to the court to facilitate placement or family reunification.

### LA CASA-OCH Auxiliary

Volunteers participate in fund raising for Orangewood Children's Home and other special events.

### CHILD ABUSE SERVICES TEAM (CAST)

The purpose of CAST is to reduce the trauma of the investigation of child abuse. This goal is accomplished by reducing the number of interviews with the child and providing a child

friendly atmosphere where one clinical forensic interview, medical exam and crises intervention therapy take place.

Volunteers provide comfort and support for abused children.

### FOSTER CARE & ADOPTION FAMILY DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Foster parents provide a caring temporary home environment for children unable to live with their birth families. In most cases foster parents work with Social Services staff to reunite the child with the birth parents. Families who want to help a child in this way choose from a variety of specialized programs that care for:

- \* Multi-cultural children
- \* Drug-exposed infants
- \* Brothers & sisters needing to stay together
- \* Children with special medical needs
- \* Children with developmental, emotional and educational needs
- \* Teen mothers and babies
- \*\* Adoptive parents take a child, no longer able to live with their birth family, into their home as a permanent family member. Families who want to help a child in this way choose from two adoptive programs:
- \*\* Concurrent Services Planning (Foster-Adoptive) families have the goal of adoption but are also licensed to provide foster care. These families have the opportunity to be the only foster placement for a child they will eventually adopt.
- \*\* Traditional Adoption families are approved to adopt those children legally freed and waiting for an adoptive family.